

# MONTHLY REPORT

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November 2021



EUROPEAN  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEES



**EU**  
Office



The European Parliament adopted the report on EU sports policy today, which gives a comprehensive overview of what sport in Europe should look like: a model based on solidarity, inclusiveness, open competition and fairness.

🌟 Congrats to @TFrankowski21 and all people involved!

📢 CULT Committee Press @EPCulture

Report on EU sports policy was adopted by 597 votes to 36 & 55 abstentions.

"The main challenge is to promote the European model of sport and protect it from threats such as a Super League", said rapporteur @TFrankowski21 in the debate

Press release [europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-...](https://europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-...)



5:23 PM · Nov 23, 2021



👍 11 🗨️ 🔄 Share this Tweet



Thank you and congratulations @EU2021SI & Ministers of #Sport for the adopted resolution on 📺 #Sport Model!

We need to preserve 📺 sport values of #integrity #solidarity & #inclusion. Also a priority to continue our work to secure the #openness and #autonomy of #sport



6:06 PM · Nov 30, 2021



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## INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

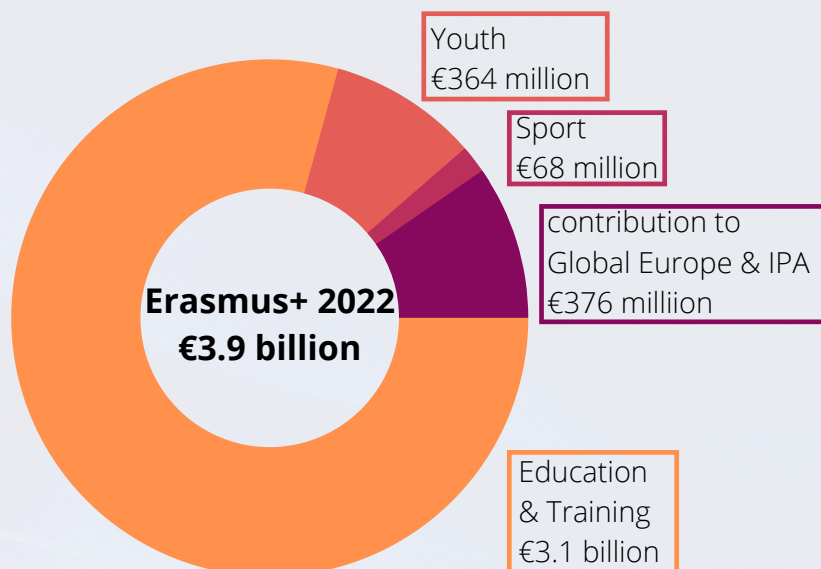
### MEP European People's Party: Tomasz Frankowski



"Sport must be based on the principles of solidarity and inclusiveness with open competitions. As such, it is important to promote a European Sports Model and to protect it from threats like the European Super League. "

See full interview on page 5

## FACTS & FIGURES



EOC EU Office  
@EOCEUOffice



The Erasmus+ Programme Guide and Call for Proposals 2022 are out! There is altogether more than €50mio for sport actions. Call for proposals [eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/...](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/...) and programme guide in several languages



Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2022  
[erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu](https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu)

6:15 PM · Nov 24, 2021



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### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The latest developments in the pandemic give rise to fears that measures already thought to have been overcome, which massively affect the freedom of movement of the population, will have to be reintroduced. The concrete effects on sporting activities and spectator access to stadiums and sports halls will be decided in the coming days and weeks. However, it is to be feared that both the implementation of sporting activities could be affected and at the same time there is a threat of loss of revenues. It is necessary to take countermeasures in good time in order to keep the impact on clubs, athletes and sports organisations as low as possible.

At the end of the calendar year, the European institutions still completed some activities in the field of sport. The Council of Sports Ministers under the Slovenian Presidency unanimously adopted the resolution on the European Model of Sport on 30 November. The negotiations on this turned out to be more complicated than expected, although the overwhelming majority of member states clearly backed the current sports model and rejected the introduction of closed leagues. Thanks to the Slovenian Presidency for the commitment to this topic and their ambition to find a good compromise!

Even if the ministers had rather the proposals for the European Super League in football in mind, one could already see last week in basketball what effects closed European competitions, such as the Euroleague, have on the respective sports. The Euroleague's decision to stick to its match day, which was designated by FIBA for national team qualifying tournaments, meant that players from Europe's best club teams could not take part in World Cup qualifiers. This is a betrayal of fans and players and lacks any sense of responsibility and fair play. Business interests should not undermine fair conditions and a level playing field in competitions!

The European Parliament and its rapporteur Frankowski have adopted a remarkable report on the future of European sport, which in its content and tone show a strong commitment to the societal importance of sport. European sport organisations will gladly take up the ideas contained therein and will work closely with the European Parliament on their implementation in the future. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr Frankowski for making himself available for an interview in this issue of the Monthly Report.

Stay healthy and all the best for 2021!



Folker Hellmund  
Director EOC EU Office





### INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Tomasz Frankowski is a former polish professional football player and third all-time scorer in the Polish Ekstraklasa with 168 goals in 302 matches. Since 2019 he is a Member of the European Parliament for the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats). In 2021 he was the rapporteur for the Report on EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward that was recently adopted.

**1. Dear Mr. Frankowski, first of all, thank you very much that you are available for this interview. Congratulations on your excellent report "EU sport Policy - assessment and possible ways forward-" which has just been adopted. Are you satisfied with the final document?**

Yes, I am. I can safely say that the final form of this report is the result of very good negotiations and excellent teamwork. This result was reflected in the vote in plenary, where almost 600 Members voted in favour.

The work on my report was preceded by consultations with stakeholders in the sports sector, which was very helpful in formulating its recommendations.

**2. Which topic was the most controversial one and which messages of the report are the most important ones?**

I would say that there were several "sensitive topics" which also brought a lot of media attention like a European Sports Model, frequency of the World and European Championships or human rights, and democratic principles when awarding the host status for major sport events. Nevertheless, there was quite a lot of consensus within the EP's negotiating team on these issues, and compromises were reached very quickly.

In terms of key messages, I consider that the EU institutions need to take even more of a lead to support the sport sector for the next decade.

This includes a new perspective on governance in sport, strengthening the European dimension of sport, preparing sport for long-term challenges such as post-pandemic recovery, innovation, education and physical activity, and sustainability in sport. Sport needs more visibility at the EU level, with simple but effective ways to achieve this being adding sport back into the title of the relevant Commissioner and creating an "EU Sport Coordinator" to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation.

### 3. Do you see as well the risk that the perception of sport is too much dominated by football and prevents a realistic picture of the real existing challenges in other sports and especially on grassroots sport?

Yes indeed, I saw the risk of focusing too much on professional sport and especially on football, which attracts so much media attention now. That is why in my first draft I tried to strike a balance that included all sports. Of course, some amendments related to football were tabled so we have a couple of extra paragraphs. Nonetheless, I think that the report is still very balanced and applies to all sports in terms of governance, integrity, inclusion, gender equality, etc. Our competence lies mainly in supporting the grassroots sport for which we have some dedicated funding in the Erasmus+ Programme.

So, in order to reflect this, I also tried to include many recommendations which apply especially to amateur and grassroots sport, particularly at a more national and local level. As an example, we requested the Member States and the Commission to encourage physical activity among EU citizens, especially young people of all backgrounds, by increasing the number of hours allotted to physical education and activities in schools and via the use of role models and sport ambassadors.

### 4. As a former professional football player, you know the role of federations and the European Sport Model very well. Would you agree that this model should be preserved and what is your opinion on closed leagues?

Yes, I agree. Sport must be based on the principles of solidarity and inclusiveness with open competitions. As such, it is important to promote a European Sports Model and to protect it from threats like the European Super League. With this report, we are sending a very strong signal about our opposition to “breakaway competitions that undermine these standards and endanger the stability of the overall sports ecosystem”.

Everyone has the right to access sport, not only some elite clubs and this is something we should all defend. Moreover, we are asking for a balance to be struck between professional sport's commercial interests with its social functions, which should be achieved by strengthening links between the grassroots level and elite sport.

### 5. Do we need new innovative forms of cooperation between representatives of the European Parliament and the Olympic Sport Movement in order to formulate and achieve common objectives, i.e., in the field of climate change or gender equality? And if yes, what could be the ways?

Of course, there is always room for improvement with regard to communication and collaboration between the institutions and the sport movement. This is one of the main recommendations from our report. In this regard, I propose to establish regular, structured and high-level cooperation led by the European Commission to develop more accountable recommendations in the field of EU sport policy.

This should be accompanied by a new Communication on the Future of Sport for the next decade, outlining strategic objectives and orientations. The European Parliament also has a key role to play in providing a framework for regular debate with the sport sector, communication, and decision-making in terms of climate change, gender equality, innovation, and other issues.



**6. How big is the risk that all the positive elements of the report will be forgotten and how could the informal EP Sport Group and the CULT Committee contribute to promoting the essential role of sport for our societies?**

My work on this report is not finished yet, I would even say that the most important part is coming now in terms of implementation. As the Rapporteur, together with my colleagues on the CULT Committee and EP Sports Group, we need to put pressure on the European Commission and the Member States in order to see these recommendations put into force. This is why we need both increased cooperation between institutions on the one hand and enhanced dialogue with the sport stakeholders on the other.

This is crucial to guide our decision-making in the field of sport and I also count on the Olympic Sport Movement to commit to these proposals and to support our efforts within other institutions and organisations.

**The EOC EU Office is thanking Tomasz Frankowski for his interview and contribution to the monthly report.**



### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

#### The European Parliament adopts its report on “EU sports policy: assessment and ways forward”

On 23 November, the European Parliament adopted its report on [“EU sports policy: assessment and ways forward”](#), with 597 votes in favour, 36 abstentions and 55 against.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of the European Parliament’s vision on how European sports should evolve going forward. It touches upon a variety of topics, including the European sports model, EU funding for sport, good governance and integrity, diversity and inclusion, safe sport, sustainability, gender equality, human rights, healthy lifestyle, etc.

Through this report, the European Parliament calls for the protection of the European sports model, a model that is “based on values, voluntary activities and solidarity” and opposes “breakaway competitions” that undermine these values. The European Parliament is also calling for the highest standards regarding the governance of sports bodies and for strong measures on diversity, inclusion and anti-discrimination in sport. The mental and physical health of athletes is also underlined as a priority, along with the safeguarding of athletes, especially children. Regarding gender equality, the report asks European media to improve the coverage of women’s sport, move towards equal premium payments and improve the representation of women in sport organisations’ boards. Sustainability in sport is another priority for the European Parliament, asking that sport events should be more “environmentally ambitious” and highlighting that sport has a big role to play in “environmental education and behaviour change”. Finally, the European Parliament asks that no major sporting events is awarded in countries where “fundamental rights and values are repeatedly violated”. In which way this request could be implemented in practise was not further explained.

On the occasion of the adoption of the report in the plenary session last week, MEP Frankowski (EPP, Poland) urged to “promote the European model of sport and protect it from the threats such as a Super League”. Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas declared that “we will defend, promote and protect a European sports model that works for the many, not for the few. A meritocratic, open and competitive system.”.

The EOC EU Office has been following the process very closely to ensure that the interests of the European sport movement are included. Even though this report is not legally binding, it is an integral part of EU sports policy and represents the vision of the European Parliament and the EOC EU Office congratulate rapporteur Tomasz Frankowski and his team for this outstanding report.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release of the European Parliament](#)



### Sport Ministers adopted a Resolution on the European Sport Model

Organised by the Slovenian EU Presidency, the EU Sport Ministers Council took place on 30 November. In the frame of this meeting the Ministers approved a Resolution on the [European Sport Model](#) and Conclusions on [lifelong physical activity](#). Ministers also discussed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on sport, the priorities of the French Presidency of the Council (starting in January 2022) and held a policy debate addressing athletes' dual careers.

In the newly adopted Resolution on the key features of a European Sport Model, the Council highlighted their key elements such as “pyramidal structure, open system of promotion and relegation, grassroots approach and solidarity, role in national identity, structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function”. Furthermore, the organisational structure of sport was recognised as “autonomous, democratic and on a territorial basis with a pyramidal structure”. The Council also emphasised the importance of financial solidarity between professional and grassroots sports.

Overall, these features revolve around three main categories. Firstly, sports federations: the Council recognises the principle of one federation per sport, emphasises the central role sports federations should take up and the calls for the preservation of the “autonomy of the sport governing bodies”, and the recognition and support of volunteers and grassroots sport clubs. Secondly, athletes: the Council asks to push for the creation for mechanisms for safeguarding athletes' rights and responsibilities and calling Member States to encourage the training and education of athletes and sport staff. Lastly, good governance: the Council calls for a response to safeguard the values and integrity in sport, to uphold standards of good governance by giving a voice to athletes and fans and warns against the increasing commercialisation of professional sport.

More generally, the Council is inviting Member States to promote values in sport and sport organisations and is asking the sport movement to ensure that the organisation of sports competitions complies with the principle of openness, gives priority to sporting merit and respects fundamental and human rights.

The Council of Ministers also adopted Conclusions on lifelong physical activity. One of the most prominent ideas is the creation of a data tracking tool for people to monitor their physical activity, encourage them to commit to it and share this data to help decision-makers build more efficient policies. The Conclusions also promote the collaboration of stakeholders in the fields of sport and health to fill the gap in lifelong physical activity policy.

Lastly, the Sports Minister of the Minister held a public policy debate on athletes' dual careers. All participants highlighted the need to pursue projects that will enhance young athletes to combine their sporting careers with demanding secondary and/or higher education. Certain Ministers shared some good practices from their country and encouraged the EU to create a platform to keep on sharing ideas and experiences.

The EOC EU Office has followed the discussion process on the Resolution regarding the European Sport Model very closely. Even though the final document has been watered down compared to its initial drafts, the EOC EU Office is satisfied to see that the key features of this values-based model are recognised by the Member States.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Council press release on the adoption of the resolution on the European Sport Model](#)

[Slovenian Presidency press release on the adoption of the resolution on the European Sport Model](#)



### 2022 Erasmus+ Call and Programme Guide published



On Wednesday 24 November 2021, the European Commission announced the latest call for proposals under the Erasmus+ funding programme. The Erasmus+ programme, is the European Commission's programme for education, training, youth and sport. In 2022 it has a total of €51,89 million allocated for the sport strand (compared to 41.7 million EUR in 2021).

Alongside the call for proposals, the European Commission also released the 2022 Programme Guide which provides a better understanding of the Erasmus+ programme. This Programme Guide – available in 23 EU languages – consists of four parts:

- A) General overview of the programme;
- B) specific information about the different actions of the programme;
- C) detailed information on procedures for grant application and selection of projects;
- D) definitions of key concepts and commonly used terms related to the programme.

In part A are listed the four horizontal priorities of the Erasmus+ programme being: inclusion and diversity; environment and fight against climate change; digital transformation, as well as values, civic engagement and participation.

Under part B – Key Action 2 is possible to identify the most relevant activities for sport being: Cooperation partnerships; Small-scale Partnerships, Non-For-Profit European Sport Events and Capacity-building in the field of sport.

#### Cooperation partnerships

Cooperation partnerships provide an opportunity to develop, transfer and implement innovative practices in different topical areas relating to sport and physical activity between various organisations and actors in and outside sport. To apply for funding, at least three organisations from three different programme countries must be involved in these partnerships whilst there is no maximum number of participating organisations in one partnership. There are three possible grant's amounts in the form of "lump sum" equivalent to €120.000, €250.000 or €400.000 and projects can have a timeframe between 12 and 36 months.

#### Small-scale partnerships

Small-scale partnerships are designed for less experienced organisations and newcomers to the programme as this has simpler administrative requirements. These partnerships support activities with transnational and national level whilst ensuring the European dimension. Activities may include organisations to increase their capacity to operate at transnational level, and exchange good practices relating to sport and physical activity. Only two organisations from two programme countries are required as partners in these projects whilst there is no maximum number of participating organisations in one partnership. There are two possible grant's amounts in the form of "lump sum" equivalent to €30.000 or €60.000 and projects can have a timeframe between 6 and 24 months.

The specific priorities pursued by the Erasmus+ programme in the field of sport apply for both cooperation partnerships and small-scale partnerships. The priorities for Sport are: encouraging healthy lifestyle for all, promoting integrity and values in sport, promoting education in and through sport, as well as combating violence and tackling racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport.



### Not-For-Profit European Sport Events

Not-for-profit European sport events aim to support volunteering in sport, social inclusion through sport, gender equality in sport, health-enhancing physical activity, as well as the implementation of the European Week of Sport. Notwithstanding, it is important to notice that sport competitions organised by international, European or national sport federations/leagues on a regular basis or professional sport competitions are not eligible for funding.

Not-for-profit European sports events include three different types of events: I. Europe-wide events (single event in a country) and II. two types of European local events (multiple events in multiple EU countries) which differ for the number of partners requested and allocated budget. Notwithstanding, the eligible period for projects remain 12 or 18 months across the different types of events.

The European local event Type I requires consortium to have between three and five organisations with each organisation coming from a different EU Member States and Programme countries whilst Type II requires a minimum of six organisations coming from six different EU Member States and Programme countries. The European local event Type I has a maximum budget of €200.000 whilst the maximum budget for Type II is €300.000. On the other hand, the European-wide event requires a minimum of ten organisations (a single applicant and nine participating organisations) coming from ten different EU Member States and Programme countries. The maximum budget for European-wide event is €450.000.

### Capacity-building in the field of sport

Capacity-building in the field of sport are multilateral partnerships between sport organisations in Programme countries and countries not associated to the Programme, in particular the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro) for 2022.

This with the aim being to support grassroots sport activities and policies in these countries, as well as promoting social inclusion, positive values and cooperation across different regions through joint initiatives. This project should involve at least four organisations from minimum three countries; and yet, the number of organisations from EU Member States and Programme countries may not be higher than the number of organisations from countries not associated to the programme. Project should have a timeframe of 12, 24 or 36 months with a grant which vary from a minimum €100.000 to a maximum of €200.000.

### Deadlines

The applications for the Erasmus+ sport are required to be submitted via the Funding & Tender portal within the given deadlines:

- Partnerships projects and Not-for-profit European sports events: 23 March 2022 at 17:00h (CET)
- Capacity building in the field of Sport: 7 April 2022 at 17:00h (CET)

Please note: EU Member States and countries associated to the Erasmus+ Programme (Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey) can participate as the coordinator and partner of the project. Countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme can participate as partners only.

The EOC EU Office warmly encourages the organised sport and its partners to actively apply funding from the Erasmus+.

For further relevant information, please refer to the [Call for proposals 2022](#) and [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2022](#)



### 4th IOC International Forum for Sports Integrity focuses on tackling corruption and competition manipulation in sport

On 9 November, multiple important actors of the sports movement as well as of the international security sector got together for the International Forum for Sports Integrity at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters in Lausanne Switzerland. The Forum brought together over 500 representatives of the Olympic Movement, governments, intergovernmental agencies, betting entities and other experts to discuss how to improve the prevention of corruption in sport, in particular through the [International Partnership Against Corruption in Sports \(IPACS\)](#). Although the speakers held the panels in person at the Olympic House, the hybrid format of the forum allowed a large variety and number of attendees.

In terms of speakers, the introduction of the Forum was conducted by Thomas Bach (IOC), Ghada Waly (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes- UNODC), Bjorn Berge (Council of Europe- CoE), Jeffrey Schlagenhauf (OECD), Ilana de Wild (Interpol) and Nigel Huddleston (Sport Minister of the UK). During introductory speeches, the IOC and the UNODC announced the [renewal of their partnership](#) to advance cooperation on safeguarding sports and published a UNODC and IOC guide against corruption, crime and game fixing in sport. Other topics such as cooperation between sports organisations and the authorities and tools to raise awareness among the youth against corruption in sports were touched on in the introduction of the Forum. It was very interesting to include a government official in this part of the Forum, Nigel Huddleston (British Under-Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage), to deepen the topic of legislative processes that help implementing treaties and conventions initiated by international organisations.



The first panel was focused on corruption and again, the speakers represented a variety of government officials and international sports organisations. The conversations were mostly focused on IPACS (of which the Council of Europe, the International Olympic Committee, the OECD, the United Kingdom and UNODC are coordinating the actions) and its different taskforces:

1. Task Force 1: reducing the risk of corruption in procurement relating to sporting events and infrastructure;
2. Task Force 2: ensuring integrity in the selection of major sporting events;
3. Task Force 3: optimising the processes of compliance with good governance principles to mitigate the risk of corruption; and
4. Task Force 4: enhancing effective cooperation between law enforcement, criminal justice authorities and sport organisations.

The second panel focused the prevention of match-fixing and this time, hosted representatives from betting and gambling authorities. The discussion revolved around the [Macolin Convention](#), the legal instrument and the only rule of international law on the manipulation of sports competitions.



It requests public authorities to co-operate with sports organisations, betting operators and competition organisers to prevent, detect and sanction the manipulation of sports competitions.

The International Forum for Sports Integrity was a very complete and interesting event which regrouped all the issues relating to sports policy in Europe, and in the world.

### The European Commission asks for feedback on the Bathing Water Directive

A [public consultation](#) for the revision of the [Bathing Water Directive](#) (BWD) is now open to all stakeholders who have an interest in this topic. The Bathing Water Directive, in force since 2006, sets rules to ensure that coastal and inland bathing waters are safe for human health, while preserving and improving the quality of the environment. The BWD only covers waters where bathing is explicitly authorised and practiced by a large number of people and thus excludes swimming pools. It lays down provisions for the monitoring, classification and management of bathing water quality and the information to the public.

With this public consultation, the European Commission aims at collecting feedback from different stakeholders (NGOs including environmental organisations, citizens, municipalities, etc.) on how the Directive should evolve, in line with the European Green Deal's Zero Pollution Ambition for air, water and soil. The European Commission will evaluate whether the parameters for evaluation and classification are still relevant and if the scope of the Directive should be broadened as to include recreational water users.

During the first phase of the feedback period (which took place in March 2021), several sport organisations had expressed their point of view in order to ensure that their activities are not overly restricted. Indeed, water sport organisations have stated that sailors, canoers, rowers and partly also divers have a different vulnerability and contact with the water than bathers.

Therefore, a transferability of the quality standards, which are appropriate for bathers, to other water sports should not be the aim of the revision. Outdoor Swimming Belgium (OSB), an association gathering non-professional open swimming enthusiasts, had asked for a change of legislation in order to make open swimming a common good. According to OSB, all areas where bathing is possible should be identified as such, monitored, maintained and promoted, including in urban areas and all year round. For their part, environmental organisations such as Surfrider Europe are calling for new parameters to be monitored (waste, algae bloom, cyanobacterial, chemical pollutants), obligations for Member States to avoid, reduce and eliminate sources of pollution and better information of the public.



The public consultation is open until 20 January 2022 and the European Commission will propose a revised Directive on the basis of collected feedback in the beginning of 2023. The EOC EU Office encourages water sport federations to get involved in this process in order to raise their requests.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission's webpage on bathing water](#)

[Press release on the launch of the public consultation](#)

[European Environment Agency's webpage on the state of bathing water](#)

[Contribution of Open Swimming Belgium to the first feedback phase](#)

[Contribution of Surfrider Foundation to the first feedback phase](#)

## Microplastics on artificial turf pitches: Proceedings further delayed

The processing of the restriction procedure for intentionally added microplastics continues to be delayed. Also for a meeting of the REACH Committee scheduled for December, a microplastics restriction proposal is not on the [agenda](#).

So far, the Commission had communicated its intention to present a proposal for a restriction at the end of 2021, as can be read, among other things, in a [statement](#) by the responsible EU Commissioner Breton.

Already in February, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) had sent its draft restriction to the Commission complementing it with a supplementary opinion in April. According to the regulations, the EU Commission has three months after receipt of the scientific dossier from ECHA to present a restriction proposal.

One reason for the delay seems to be the scope and complexity of the restriction. According to the Commission, the restriction on intentionally-added microplastics is the largest restriction under REACH to date, both in terms of scope and expected impacts.

When the Commission intends to publish its restriction, proposal remains unclear. Environmental groups [criticise](#) that any delays will lead to more microplastics being released into the environment.

According to the comitology procedure, the Commission's proposal will be discussed and voted on in the REACH Committee. The restriction will then be adopted with the involvement of the European Parliament and the Member States.

For the sports sector, the restriction proposal is of particular importance as it will have direct consequences on thousands of granulate-filled artificial turf pitches in the EU. ECHA had recommended to the Commission to either ban the placing on the market of microplastics as infill granules on artificial turf pitches (ECHA's preferred option), or to impose mandatory risk management measures on all granule-filled artificial turf pitches (such as protective gutters) to minimise the discharge of microplastics into the environment.



In parallel, the European Commission has recently set out its [ambitions](#) to not only limit intentionally added microplastics, but also to investigate unintentional discharges of microplastics, i.e. secondary microplastics e.g. from textiles or car tyres. The Commission aims to propose a regulation on the unintentional release of microplastics into the environment. A respective [public consultation](#) process has just been published, whereby the Commission calls for evidence and lays down its objectives.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA – Website Microplastic](#)

[Public consultation/ Call for evidence: Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce its impact on the environment](#)

## #BeActive Award Winners 2021 announced

The #BeActive awards were created to support projects and individuals that are dedicated to promoting sport and physical activity across Europe. There are 3 categories for the awards:

### 1. #BeActive Education Award

This award aims to demonstrate how education can encourage kids to #BeActive outside the typical sport/physical activity taking place in their normal school day. This may include additional activities, scheduling days outside of class that focus on sport, after-school activities and other creative solutions that build an active education environment.

### 2. #BeActive Workplace Award

This award celebrates exemplary activities in the workplace that encourage employees to #BeActive. This may include setting up a staff taskforce responsible for promoting physical activity, provision of showers for cycling/running commuters, standing meetings, lunchtime walks and other creative solutions to form an active working environment.

### 3. #BeActive Local Hero Award

This award honors individual achievement in motivating others to #BeActive. The award recognises individuals who have worked consistently to promote participation in sport and/or physical activity in their local community

In October, the finalists were chosen and the #BeActive Awards Gala took place in Brussels on 29 November, with the presence of Commissioner responsible for Sport, Mariya Gabriel, as well as Simona Kustec, Minister of Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia, which is currently holding the EU Presidency. Announced by Commissioner Gabriel, the celebrated 2021 #BeActive Awards winners are: [TSV Neuried](#) from Germany (Education), [iData](#) from Hungary (Workplace) and [Alo Looke](#) from Estonia (Local Hero).

EOC EU Office congratulates all the winners and finalists for their outstanding work to increase physical activity in Europe!







### PARTNERS' CORNER

#### EOC EU Office's RINGS project continues with discussions on NOC's stakeholders

On 19 November, the EOC EU Office hosted an online seminar for its [RINGS project](#). The main purpose of the project is to develop and modernize strategic management of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in Europe. In addition, the tools and outputs developed during the project will equip and support the NOCs in their daily operational management and thus improve their governance. Co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, the RINGS project gathers an important consortium with 13 organisations including 11 NOCs (Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Slovakia and Turkey), the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, and EOC EU Office as project leader.

The aim of this seminar was to present the recent development of the Stakeholder Tool, one of the main outputs of the RINGS project, both from the technical point of view, but also more importantly regarding its content. Essentially, the aim of this tool is to help NOCs in their general stakeholder management but also during specific projects. 10 main stakeholder groups of an NOC have been identified by the project consortium and the tool will give a mapping grid with some proposals for stakeholder engagement.



At this stage of the project, this seminar with the partners led to some constructive and fruitful debates on their personal experiences on stakeholder management in order to feed the tool with those good practices. Additionally, we had the pleasure to have Kaveh Mehrabi, Director of the IOC Athlete's department, as a speaker to talk about athletes as a stakeholder group. Mr. Mehrabi shared his insights on the role of Athletes' Commissions and their advantages in terms of decision-making within an NOC.

As the project leader of RINGS, the EOC EU Office is very satisfied with the outcome of the seminar, with the constructive participation of its partners and thankful for the participation of Kaveh Mehrabi as an external speaker.



### The EOC EU Office presents EU funding opportunities for sport organisations at the 41st European Olympic Committees Seminar

The 41st EOC Seminar was held in Samorin, Slovakia, on the 25 and 26 of November 2021. 44 of the 50 European National Olympic Committees (ENOCs) attended in person whilst the remaining connected online.

The Seminar was officially opened by Spyros Capralos (EOC President) and Jozef Liba (Secretary General NOC Slovakia) and both underlined the importance of dialogue and cooperation among ENOCs and their role for the sport ecosystem. The interactive agenda contained workshops and presentations e.g. the EOC Strategic Agenda 2030, a debrief on Tokyo 2020, manipulation of sport competitions and EU funding.



The presentation on EU funding was delivered by Director Folker Hellmund and the new funding officer Carlotta Giussani. On this occasion the new comprehensive brochure "Funding for Sports in the European Union 2021-2027" by the EOC EU Office was launched and distributed to the ENOCs. Furthermore, the EOC EU Office provided a series of useful information and examples on the EU funding programmes available for sport organisations, as well as a series of tips for ENOCs to become more active in the field of EU Funding. The presentation was concluded with an overview of the EU funding services and upcoming activities available via the EOC EU Office.



The second day of the 41st EOC Seminar continued to provide thought-provoking sessions and learning opportunities for all participants. Accordingly, panel discussion and showcases of best practices have been held in the realm of athletes, marketing and communication, sustainability measures as well as on EOC sport events such as the 3rd European Games and European Youth Olympic Festivals. Hence, the 41st EOC Seminar was concluded by Raffaele Pagnozzi (EOC Secretary General) who highlighted the success of the EOC Seminar in engaging the ENOCs, as well as on the support available in EU Funding from the EOC EU Office in Brussels.

In concomitance with the 41st EOC Seminar, the EOC EU Office Board Meeting and the EOC Executive Committee meeting were also held. Both meetings have highlighted the long-standing efforts and achievements of the EOC EU Office, as well as laying the foundation for continuing a mutually constructive and beneficial cooperation with the ENOCs.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Summary of the EOC Executive Committee meeting](#)

[Summary of Day 1 of the EOC Seminar](#)

[Summary of Day 2 of the EOC Seminar](#)



### Online course: How to manage a modern sport club

How can knowledge and understanding about modernization and innovative practices within the traditional sports movement support grassroots sports clubs in their operations? The partners in the Erasmus+ funded CHAMP project have investigated this question throughout the last three years and created the final outcome, an online course named “How to manage a modern sport club”. Check out the course here: [www.engso-education.eu/champ](https://www.engso-education.eu/champ).



This year the European Sports NGO (ENGSO) will finalize the project together with the partners and the final conference was held in Vilnius Lithuania on 21 October. The conference included presentations from project partners, Teodora Pletosu, KEA European Affairs, and Hisham Shehabi, N3XT Sports. The main objective of the event was to introduce the online course and share and discuss insights into new findings in the field of sport innovation, digitalization and modernization, and to ensure that the project outcomes will be sustained and used by sports clubs across Europe.

The project results reveal that sport clubs in Europe are facing several challenges that can be addressed by innovative solutions. However, there is a common belief, among sports clubs, that innovative solutions must be something extravagant, expensive, and time-consuming. However, findings from the project show that many brilliant and innovative solutions, tackling the challenges of modern sport clubs, doesn't need to be that consuming or high tech. While it's important for the clubs to find their niche. It's also crucial to determine their own identity and identify how open or flexible they can become without losing the connection to their existing members.

The full project reports and the online course can be found here: <https://www.engso-education.eu/champ/>.







### UPCOMING EVENTS

**6 - 7 December 2021**

EPAS Conference on Sport Integrity

**7 December 2021**

IOC Executive Committee

**7 December 2021**

EOC EU Office: Special Competence Seminar

**11 December 2021**

IOC Olympic Summit



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